

Appln. No. 09/867,180
Amendment dated June 22, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 22, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The March 22, 2006 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, claims are amended, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

In the Office Action claims 1, 4, 6-8, and 10-14 (incorrectly stated in the Office Action as claims 10-14-16) are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by USP 6,823,327 (Klug et al.).

In response, claims 1, 6, 8 and 10 are amended to more clearly define the present claimed invention over the cited references. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

According to the present claimed invention, as shown in FIG. 3 and as described in the specification at page 13, line 14 to page 14, line 7, a top page screen of an accounting office (affiliation site) displays introduction information of the

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"enterprise support system" in addition to the introduction information of the accounting office. In the introduction information to the support system, the hypertext "to the enterprise support system" for linking to the support system site 1 is included.

When the hypertext "to the enterprise support system" is designated on the top page screen of the accounting office, the accounting office site 2 accesses the support system site 1. At that time, an identifier of the accounting office is added to the hypertext. The support system site 1 determines whether or not access is made via the accounting office site 2 based on the determination as to whether this hypertext includes the identifier of the accounting office. When the access is not made via the accounting office site 2, the Web page in the support system site 1 displayed by the hypertext is provided.

Thus, the present claimed invention manages not only the user registration information, but also the contents information. In other words, the contents information and the user registration information are managed in association with each other. By accessing the affiliation site and selecting, on a screen showing contents information service of the affiliation site as shown in FIG. 3, a service provider site which provides contents information service different from the one provided by

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the affiliation site, it is possible to receive different contents information service that is linked to the affiliation site.

Klug et al. (US 6,823,327 B1) do not teach the above linking of sites. Klug et al. aim to register user information at a single web site and use the information provided at this web site to more easily register at other web sites (see col. 1, line 65 to col. 3, line 6 of Klug et al.). In Klug et al., a Registrar Web Site collectively manages user registration information, and a user can register the user registration information on the Registrar Web Site directly or via a Third Party Web Site. The user registration information registered on the Registrar Web Site will be sent from the Registrar Web Site to the Third Party Web Site by the instructions given by the user when he/she accesses the Third Party Web Site, and authentication processing will be executed at the Third Party Web Site.

Klug et al. aim to be able to input the same user identification information even in the case of accessing other Third Party Web Sites. That is, the Registrar Web Site offers a screen for user authentication to verify the user registration information when the user accesses various Third Party Web Sites. However, when the user wishes to receive service, i.e., to obtain contents information at various Third Party Web Sites, the user

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needs to select a desired Third Party Web Site according to the type of service the user wishes to receive before accessing that Third Party Web Site. The Registrar Web Site does not provide contents information service, but merely manages user registration information.

Independent claim 1 includes the following structure which is not disclosed, taught or suggested by Kiug et al.:

changing, by the service provider site, a part of the contents information to be transmitted to the requesting terminal to predetermined contents information corresponding to the affiliation site when the access request is made via the affiliation site; and/or

transmitting, by the service provider site, the contents information including the predetermined contents information to the requesting terminal and waiting for a user verification request from the requesting terminal before starting service provision; and/or

storing, by the service provider site, user information of the requesting terminal relating to the service provision into a session control table relating to the affiliation site. (See claim 1, lines 21-33.)

Independent claim 6 includes the following structure which is not disclosed, taught or suggested by Klug et al.:

providing, by the service provider site, to the user terminal predetermined contents information corresponding to the service item in response to the access request on a screen of the affiliation site; and/or

receiving, by the service provider site, response information relating to the provided contents information from the user terminal via the communication network and determining whether the access request is transmitted from the affiliation site based on whether the access request

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includes the identifier of the affiliation site when a predetermined processing is to be performed with regard to the response information; and/or

performing, by the service provider site, the predetermined processing based on a result of the determination. (See claim 6, lines 12-25.)

Independent claim 11 includes the following structure which is not disclosed, taught or suggested by Klug et al.:

receiving, by the affiliation site, a request for the home page of the service provider from a user of the affiliation site; and/or

transferring, by the affiliation site, the request for the home page of the service provider to the service provider site with an identifier of the affiliation site; and/or

determining, by the service provider site, whether the user is a member of the affiliation site based on whether the request includes the identifier of the affiliation site, and/or

transmitting the home page of the service provider to the user by the service provider site when the user is a member of the affiliation site. (See claim 11, lines 11-21.)

By the structures stated above, from the user's side, not only is it possible to select contents information service that is provided by an affiliation site through the screen of the affiliation site, but it is also possible to obtain other contents information service provided by a service provider site through the same screen. Therefore, since the user needs to

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remember accessing only one affiliation site, usability is improved. In addition, from the side of the affiliation site, since it is possible to add contents information service that cannot be covered at its own site by contracting with other service provider sites (i.e., sites that provide other contents information service), contents information service can be provided with greater flexibility. Accordingly, the method of the present claimed invention has the effect of making it easier for the owner of the affiliation site to respond to the demands of the users.

In order to realize the feature wherein "other contents information service can be obtained through the screen of one affiliation site," as shown in FIG. 5B and described in the present specification at page 17, lines 13 to 24, an identifier of the affiliation site and user registration information are stored in a site that provides contents information service in advance, and when a user selects the site that provides such service through the screen of an affiliation site, the identifier of the affiliation site is transmitted to the site that provides the selected service. At the service provider site, the identifier of the affiliation site that has been received is discriminated. If the affiliation site is recognized as the pre-registered site, the contents information with information

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